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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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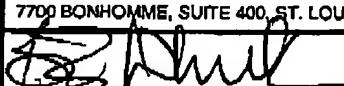
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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/657,005	
	Filing Date	September 5, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	CARON, RONALD N. et al.	
	Art Unit	1742	
	Examiner Name	IP, SIKYIN	
Total Number of Pages In This Submission	2	Attorney Docket Number	6113-000026/US

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Firm	HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE 7700 BONHOMME, SUITE 400, ST. LOUIS, MO 63105		
Signature			
Printed Name	Bryan K. Wheelock		
Date	APRIL 6, 2006	Reg. No.	\$1,441

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PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/657,005
Filing Date: September 5, 2003
Applicant: Caron, Ronald N. et al.
Group Art Unit: 1742
Examiner: Silkyin, Ip
Title: Age-Hardening Copper Base Alloy and Processing
Attorney Docket: 6113-000026US

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Response

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of March 6, 2006.

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application before this Response. Claims 1-19 were subject to a restriction requirement. The Office Action identified two inventions: 1. (claims 1-7) drawn to an alloy, and 2. (claims 8-19) drawn to a process for making a copper base alloy.

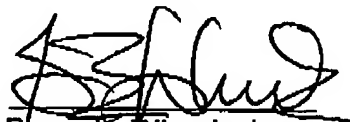
Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is improper because even though the inventions may be distinct, there are so closely related that examination of both in the same application would not present a significant burden to the Office. For at least this reason, applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

However, as required in the Office Action, in the event that the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, applicants provisionally elect invention 1, claims 1-7.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this Response fully addresses the matters raised in the Office Action. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 314-726-7500.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan K. Wheelock
Reg. No. 31,441

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